

CHURCH RECORD.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."—*St. Mark, xvi. 15.*

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and, to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."—*Rev. xiv. 6.*

CONDUCTED BY

AN ASSOCIATION OF CLERGYMEN.

Vol. I.

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EDITORIAL ADDRESS.

The CHURCH RECORD will hereafter be issued on every other Saturday; and each number will contain sixteen instead of eight pages as heretofore. This change it is presumed will be acceptable to most of our readers, many of whom, it is understood, have objected to the smallness of the work. The Editors candidly confess that they have experienced considerable inconvenience from the present size; but the desire of exciting a deep interest upon the all-important subject of Missions, and of cherishing that interest by frequently imparting the earliest intelligence concerning the promulgation of the gospel of peace, induced them in the first instance to adopt the plan of sending forth a weekly paper, and to persevere in doing so until the present moment. The attention, however, of the Episcopalians of this country has scarcely yet been directed to this sacred topic; and it is needless to expect much excitement upon a subject until the feelings are interested. It is hoped, therefore, by the proposed change, that if the Record does not offer to its patrons the earliest news of a religious nature, it will present to them such lucid and interesting accounts as will have a tendency to awaken the sensibilities yet dormant in the breasts of too many worthy members of the church.

It is the wish of the Editors to excite a spirit for Missions in that communion to which they belong—to provoke those who worship with them in the same sanctuaries and are connected to them by the holiest and tenderest of ties, to emulate the noble example which the Congregationalists and other denominations have set us. In reliance upon Almighty grace, these Christians have sent forth mission families to the heathen at the same time that they have located evangelists among the destitute of their own country. To produce an interest upon this great subject, the labours and success of all Protestant Missionary Societies will be mentioned in the Record, while every thing connected with the prosperity of our own church will be particularly noticed.

It is well known that the General Convention has established

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a Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. This institution is yet in its infancy; but it has already excited the anxious solicitude of the Editors—and they trust, that watered by the prayers and exertions of Episcopalian, it will be instrumental in imparting to many thousands the truths and consolations of our holy religion. It demands and should receive the strenuous and united aid of the members of the church. All its proceedings will be detailed in the Record; and the most favourite object of the Editors will be to excite and cherish an interest in its favour. The *Record* was principally designed to promote its views; and as *the chief vehicle* of all missionary intelligence connected with the church, the Editors solicit for it such an extent of patronage as may authorize its continuance and improvement. The price is made so very low, that the poorest family in the church may take it without inconvenience.

The cause to which we have devoted our paper is one in which the glory of God and the eternal welfare of souls are intimately concerned. The heathen yet occupying the principal part of the globe are lying in wickedness, the slaves and worshippers of Satan, and the victims of the vilest and most degrading passions of our nature; while thousands of professing Christians are either destitute of the means of grace, as are most of those in the new settlements of the western states, or else, hold the truth in unrighteousness, and in consequence of the prevalence of false doctrines and superstitious customs are ignorant of the power of the gospel. The cry, that no one careth for my soul, has too long ascended to the ears of the Lord God of Sabaoth. Souls are perishing for lack of knowledge. The empire of darkness is extending its sway, while few in comparison come forward to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. And yet there is no duty more obligatory upon Christians than that of making known the glad tidings of salvation. The dreadful nature, the contaminating influence and awful consequences of sin—the unparalleled condescension and infinite sufferings of the Redeemer—gratitude for the riches of Divine grace, and tender sympathy for those who are awfully exposed to all the horrors of the second death—these are some of the motives which should induce all Christians, however limited their sphere of action, to devote part of their time, their talents and their wealth, to the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth.

MISSIONARY NOTICE.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of

the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, held Sept. 26, 1822, the following resolutions were adopted:

"Resolved, That a general meeting of the Episcopalian of the city and surrounding districts, be held in St. James's Church, on the 14th October, to devise and adopt means to obtain subscriptions and donations to the General Missionary Society.

"That notice of said meeting be given in all the churches on the day before, and that the officiating clergymen be requested to preach on the duty of aiding domestic and foreign missions.

"That all the members of the Board residing in the city, and all the clergy, be particularly invited to attend the meeting, and to bring their friends with them."

It is expected that addresses will be delivered by several laymen on the above occasion, which, we hope will be thought of sufficient interest to demand the presence of all who are desirous of advancing the kingdom of the Redeemer.

The chair will be taken by the Right Rev. Bishop White at 7 o'clock, P. M. precisely.

AFRICA.

We have just received the Fifth Report of the Sierra Leone Bible Society, read at the annual meeting, January 29th, 1822, and furnish our readers with the following extracts:

"Since the formation of this auxiliary society, it has received from the parent institution, in the year 1817,

Seventy-one Arabic Bibles, amounting to	£78 17 7
Four hundred Bullom and English Gospels	40 13 9
Six English Bibles and twelve Testaments	4 15 5

"In the year 1820 it received, by the Rev. Messrs. Garnsey and Flood, 750 English Bibles and 2000 Testaments	539 18 4
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Amounting, in the whole, to £664 5 1

"The total sum which your committee have remitted to the parent society, up to the present time, is £424 6s. 8d. and there remains in the treasurer's hands, to be transmitted, with the present subscriptions, £64 1s.

"Out of the number of Bibles and Testaments received, there have been distributed—42 Arabic Bibles, 111 Bullom and English Gospels, 596 English Bibles, 1101 English Testaments.

"Your committee have still at their disposal—29 Arabic Bibles, 289 Bullom and English Gospels, 160 English Bibles, 911 English Testaments: so that every one in this colony that can

read, and is without the scriptures, may, by paying only one half of the cost price, be supplied either with a Bible or a Testament; and those who are in want, and cannot afford to pay any thing, (though it is believed there are few, indeed, thus circumstanced) may have a Testament given them.

“ What, they would ask, has effected the change of conduct from bad to good, in many with whom you are acquainted, but the Bible? What, but the influence of the Bible upon the heart, has rendered many that were once carelessly indolent, now carefully industrious? What, but the Bible, has caused many Ethiopians (now in this colony) to stretch out their hands unto God, and to implore pardoning mercy through Jesus, the Son of his love? Are not the effects of the Bible visible to every eye?— Turn your eyes again to the neighbouring villages, and behold what great things the Bible has done in them; see the number that has been brought to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, to praise the Lord for the wonders he has performed for them, and to pray for the universal diffusion of this heart-changing, illuminating word, among all their benighted country people; see thousands that were once worshippers of dumb idols, gods of wood and stone, now worshipping the one only and true God!

“ Who can contemplate these things without exclaiming, what, through the instrumentality of his word, hath God wrought?

“ Who knows but a great part of Africa may, through the medium of this colony, receive the glorious gospel of the blessed God, and be thereby instructed in all the things that belong to her peace?

“ Many of her sable sons and daughters are already come out of darkness, and are become the children of light—many, though once, and for a long time, afar off, are now brought near to the Lord Almighty.

“ Is not this, in part, a proof of the accomplishment of that promise, that Christ shall have the heathen given to him for his inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession? Is it not a token and pledge of its actual completion? Doubtless it is. ‘ He is faithful who hath promised, who also will do it.’ ”

MISSIONS.

The subject of Missions is daily becoming more and more interesting. May its interest increase and continue to bear down all opposition, “ until the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.” Cast your eye, Christian reader, over a

map of that world in which you live—a world of sinners, under the curse of its Creator, groaning and travailing in pain, for the wickedness which hath been committed upon it. Nevertheless a world, which God so loved, that he gave his only begotten Son to redeem it—which Christ so loved, that he consented to take upon himself the whole load of its guilt. Behold this world, already growing old and tending to decay—how small a proportion of its inhabitants are yet acquainted with their Saviour and Redeemer. *Asia*, containing a population of five hundred millions, is almost in total darkness. Here and there a solitary messenger is seen proclaiming the everlasting gospel, and breaking in with a feeble ray of light upon the wide spreading gloom. Alas! it only serves to render the darkness more visible. *Africa*, poor ill fated *Africa*, yet struggling under the malediction of Heaven, for the sins of thy forefathers super-added to those under which we all do labour—how sad, how comfortless is the moral desolation which spreads itself over thy uncultivated plains. Thou art not only ignorant, but thereto is added all the symptoms of infuriate madness. O what a blessing to thee, will the knowledge of thy salvation be! It will stay thy hand of rapine; spare the blood of thy children; and prevent thee any longer from being regarded as the unhallowed stock of a mercenary traffic. *Europe*, thou art mostly called Christian; but oh! how little do thy children deserve that name. Except some little portion, thy continental population needs as much to hear the gospel, and is as little acquainted with its peculiar truths, as the children of Africa or of India. From Spartivento to the icy ocean, superstition reigns; the life, the soul of Christianity has fled; nothing now remains but its airy shadow, seen flitting among the monumental records of its former glory. And thou, land of my nativity, the country of my fathers—wherever thy children are civilized, the gospel has shed its happiest influences. But through thy wide extended wilderness, where none but the sons of the forest have heretofore roamed, four hundred thousand souls are scattered, reckless of Him who died for man's salvation. Say, reader, is not the subject of missions an interesting one? Thinkest thou it is a needless labour to send the gospel to them that are perishing for lack of knowledge? Art thou serious in thy objections to this labour of love? and is it indeed a matter of indifference with thee, whether thy brother dies, clasping in his arms—a Bible, or an idol? Oh! no—If thou hast known the value of the religion of Jesus, thou canst not but feel for the wretched, neglected, comfortless, forsaken condition of thy fellow men. Confess, then, thou art interested in this subject, and lend thy labour in promoting this work of the Lord.

B.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW CHURCH.

From the Repertory.

On Tuesday, the 17th instant, the new church erected in the village of Rockville, Montgomery county, (Md.) was consecrated, agreeably to the forms of the Episcopal Church, to the service of Almighty God, by the name of Christ Church, (of which the Rev. Thomas G. Allen, of Rockville, is rector,) by the Right Rev. Bishop Kemp. Morning prayer was conducted by the Rev. William Hawley, of Washington City; the declaration of consecration was read by the Rev. Mr. Weller, and an appropriate sermon delivered by the Bishop. In addition to the gentlemen above named, the following clergymen were present on the occasion: the Rev. Mr. Reid, of Montgomery; the Rev. Mr. Johns, of Fredericktown; the Rev. Mr. M'Ilvaine, of Georgetown; the Rev. Mr. Tyng of Georgetown; and the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, rector of Zion Church, Frederick. After the sermon, the Bishop administered the rite of confirmation to about twenty persons. The congregation was large, respectable, and very attentive during the whole of the exercises. From the zeal and activity manifested by the Rev. Mr. Allen and the members of his congregation, we cherish the pleasing hope, that much good will be done in that place for the great cause of our Redeemer and the salvation of many who have been engaged in this good work. The building is a neat brick edifice, and well adapted to the purposes for which it is designed; and the members of the church in that place deserve much commendation for the exertions which they have made to promote the prosperity of the Episcopal church and advance the great interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. The presence of the Rev. Mr. Reid on this occasion, who is now in his 75th year, and who is the oldest clergyman in the diocese, his venerable appearance and pious life, induced the brethren present to pay him that respect which was due to his age and character. After dinner, at Judge Kilgour's, they resolved, in testimony of their respect, to request the Bishop to present to him the great gratification in meeting him on this solemn occasion, and their sincere regret that the infirmities of his age prevented him from taking the part in the exercises of the day to which his long standing in the ministry entitled him. Wishing him all the consolation, which, as a faithful labourer in the vineyard of our Lord, he could desire, and all the blessedness of a devout servant of the Lord Jesus, and that, when his earthly pilgrimage should be terminated, he might be received into mansions of everlasting rest, they bid him an affectionate farewell.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Conceiving it to be of great importance, that those who contemplate joining this institution, should be present at the commencement of the next session, we state for the benefit of the candidates and students at a distance, that the seminary will open on Monday the 12th of November next, in New York. The situation of the building is perfectly safe, as it is quite remote from the infected part of the city.

THE HOMILIES.

E. J. Coale & Co. booksellers, Baltimore, for the Prayer Book and Homily Society of Maryland, propose to publish a handsome edition of the Homilies of the Church of England, as appointed to be read in churches in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The estimation in which the Homilies are held by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, will best appear from her own public and authorized acts in relation to them.

In the 35th Article of religion, they are declared to "contain a godly and wholesome doctrine."

In the office for the "ordering of Deacons," among other things which are said to appertain to his office, the "reading the Homilies in the Church," is specified.

In 1814, the following resolution was proposed and adopted by the house of Bishops, and concurred in by the house of Clerical and Lay Deputies in General Convention.

"The house of Bishops taking into consideration, that the two books of Homilies are referred to in the 35th Article of this church, as containing a body of sound Christian doctrine; and knowing by their respective experience, the scarcity of the volume, rendering it difficult for some candidates in the ministry to possess opportunities of studying its contents, propose to the house of Clerical and Lay Deputies, to make it a standing instruction to every Bishop, and to the ecclesiastical authority in every state destitute of a Bishop, to be furnished (as soon as may be) with a copy or copies of said work; and to require it to be studied by all candidates for the ministry within their respective bounds, under the expectation that when offering for ordination, the knowledge of its contents will be indispensably required."

These pious works so highly esteemed by the church, are frequently quoted and referred to, in the writings of our divines--and strong desire has been excited in the minds of Episcopilians generally to become acquainted with them; but the means of gratifying that desire have not been hitherto offered. Only one edition, and that only of five hundred copies, has ever been

printed in the United States. So that with respect to the great majority of churchmen in this country, the Homilies are known, only in name, as writings highly venerable and precious.

HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION.

E. Littell has issued proposals for publishing by subscription, a new edition of the Rev. Mr. Allen's Abridgment of Burnet's History of the Reformation. This work has been favourably reviewed by several theological publications in this country, and we should rejoice in a more extended dissemination of it among the Christian public. It has been adopted by the Protestant Episcopal Sunday and Adult School Union, of this city, as a premium book; and a coarser edition is to be printed, with an especial reference to that object.

THEOLOGICAL READING ROOMS.

Messrs. S. Potter & Co. of this city, intend opening on the first of November next, at No. 87 Chestnut Street, a commodious suite of rooms, which they will furnish with the principal religious periodical publications of the United States and England; together with such theological works as may, from time to time, be issued from the American press. It is contemplated to add to the above, several of the most approved literary and critical publications.

The claims of this establishment to general patronage are illustrated by the following statement of the proposers, in their circular: "The rooms will be furnished with not less than thirty European and American periodical publications, exclusive of theological books, which, with the postage, and other expenses attending the receipt of them, would average three dollars each, per annum; amounting in the whole to ninety dollars. The new theological works with which the rooms will be furnished during the year, would amount, no doubt, to a sum equal to the periodical publications; making a total of one hundred and eighty dollars, for which subscribers to the rooms would pay no more than five dollars."

Until the commencement of the next year, the rooms will be opened *gratuitously*.

The CHURCH RECORD is printed on eight octavo pages, and published every Saturday. The price is *One Dollar a year*, payable in advance; and until this condition shall have been complied with, the Record will not be sent to any subscriber.

 All letters on the subject of the work must be *post paid*.

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